Mr. President: I suggest that as the Hon'ble Member's memories seem rather short in this regard it might be a good thing if the Hon'ble Member would give a short summary of his previous speeches on the subject.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The first difficulty is paddy takes almost double the space of rice. Even with regard to the temporary stocking of paddy we purchase, we are managing with great difficulty with regard to accommodation. Again there is the transport problem, which is much more difficult. Transport of paddy would require larger volume of space and hence larger number of vehicles. Quick movements are necessary and if large volume has to be transported it becomes all the more difficult. Another difficulty is we are purchasing different varieties of paddy, some will be well-dried, some in a wet condition and some may contain chaff and if it is to be preserved as paddy it has to be well-dried and sifted. If that is not done some stock will be ruined. There is that risk. Then again, there is scope for fraud in the sale of paddy as paddy by an admixture of chaff. Now if we find paddy in the possession of a non-cultivator in an area where rice ration is issued as rice alone and not as paddy, we can know at once that it is not his paddy, whereas if paddy is issued as paddy itself there is the possible plea that it is ration paddy and that it is not paddy illicitly obtained. These are some of the difficulties which I have already explained. Further a large portion of the people requires the ration in the form of rice. Among the poorer classes a large number of them would like to have the ration in rice only.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the Government have any objection to entrust the work of distribution of paddy to private individuals who can give though satisfaction to the Government in any particular village.

Mr. President: That is a useful suggestion which no doubt will be considered. It is hardly a question for information.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* May I know whether the Government will be prepared to try this method if a place is given to them free of rent and where paddy is lying very close?

Mr. President: That is another suggestion which will be noted.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: നെല്ല് നെല്ലായി റേഷൻകൊടുക്കുന്നതു സങ്കടമാണെന്നു തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ പട്ടണത്തിലെ മില്ലുടമസ്ഥന്മാർ ഫുഡ്സപ്ലൈ ഡയറക്ടരോടു ആവലാതി പ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No.

QUALITY OF RICE DISTRIBUTED

284. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have not been receiving repeated representations about the very bad quality of rice now distributed;

(*b*) whether they have not received complaints about the turn out of the "Varathan Mills", Chelakkara;

(*c*) what if any are the orders in relief?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) A few complaints have been received.

(*b*) No complaints have been received from the public.

(*c*) Arrangements have been made to distribute this rice at centres where consumers are accustomed to imported rice.

The supply of paddy to this rice mill has been stopped and the matter is under investigation.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu).* May I know what the Government means by the answer to (*b*) that no complaints have been received from the public?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It means that action was taken on reports received from the departmental officers.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the Government are aware of the quality of rice which has been even to-day converted into boiled rice and distributed in the Maruthi Lodging and Hotel here?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will you be kind enough to examine it during the session?

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Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes. Not only during the session but at all times.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will the Hon'ble Government take it from me that it is something which cannot be taken to the mouth because of the proximity of the nose? *(Laughter)*

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether for the last 6 months particularly bad quality of rice alone was being distributed in the Talappally Taluk a paddy growing centre?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the rice that is being distributed there is comparatively much worse than what is distributed in the Trichur Taluk as also in this Taluk?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I cannot say so. My impression is that Talappalli Taluk is getting better rice on the whole.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkanaheri):* It ought to. Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to make an enquiry and see whether it is not a matter of fact that a much inferior sort of rice was being distributed in that paddy growing centre?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I shall certainly enquire.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Government has subjected any of the articles sold as food-stuffs to the test of a food Laboratory?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is only when there is any complaint that it is contaminated or anything like that that we have it tested. We had some occasion to treat wheat like that.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to have the rice sold in some areas especially tested at the Food Laboratory to see whether it contains all the ingredients that are necessay for the healthy life of an individual?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the paddy grown in Talappally is distributed there itself?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The major portion is taken away.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether it is not the surplus only that is taken away?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is the surplus that is taken out but sometimes when there is urgent necessity elsewhere we take more.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it a fact that the paddy grown in Talappally is often bad?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* We are not responsible for the different kinks of paddy grown there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the Hon'ble Member is right when he says that it is not the surplus that is taken away from Talappalli?

Mr. President: I suggest that is an unfortunate form in which to put the question. The Hon'ble Member must assume that an Hon'ble Member speaking for the Government is right to the best of his knowledge and capacity.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I will assume that. May I know whether the whole paddy is not taken out of the Taluk for purposes of milling?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether a large quantity of paddy from the Talappalli Taluk is not taken out of the Taluk.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* And after milling is the whole quantity sent back?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Not all.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : ഇപ്പോൾ ഇടങ്ങഴിക്ക് രണ്ടര അണ വിലയായി അരി വിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That is only the inferior quality of rice.

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മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ; അടുത്ത അവസരത്തിൽ തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ താലൂക്ക് അഡൈ്വസറി കമ്മിറ്റി റസല്യൂഷനോടുകൂടി അയച്ചുതന്ന സാമ്പിൾ അരി ഇത്തരത്തിൽ പെട്ടതാണോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : No.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ; ആ അരി ഫെയർ പ്രൈസ്സ് ഷാപ്പുകളിൽ മറ്റുള്ള അരിയോടു കൂട്ടിക്കലർത്തി വിൽക്കുന്നതായിട്ട് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: രണ്ടര അണയായിട്ട് അരി വിൽക്കുവാനുള്ള കാരണമെന്താണെന്നു പറയാമോ:

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There is an inferior kind of broken rice received along with the rice we get from Karachi and even among the rice milled here there is some inferior broken rice which does not mix well with the other rice. So that is taken separately and sold at a lesser rate.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: In what way is it inferior?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Some are very small pieces so that there is the complaint that the cooking time taken for the different varieties is different and so people find it difficult to use it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether it is a fact that in the quantity of rice that one rationcard-holder gets, there are more than one variety of rice. Say in one or two edangazhies the rice contains distinctly two or three varieties. Has it come to the notice of the Government?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes, Sir. It is because sometimes some people insist on getting a portion of boiled rice and a portion of raw rice. Then we issue them both the varieties. Again there will be a comparatively less palatable kind of rice and card-holders will want only a portion of that and a portion of the other. Generally, on such cases we issue the ration in small portions taken from various groups.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: My question has been misunderstood, Sir. The question was whether in the stock of one particular ration cardholder say in one or two edangazhies, that quantity contains two or three distinctly different varieties of rice, not raw rice and boiled rice separately purchased but one quality containing a mixture of two or three distinct varieties which take different times for boiling.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Sometimes it so happens that in the rice we get, in some bags, there is more than one variety and we issue it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether it is the imported rice that is being sent for consumption in Talappalli Taluk?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: We have to send some when there was shortage in Talappalli. I am not sure. I have not seen it.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ താലൂക്ക് അഡൈ്വസറി കമ്മിറ്റി അയച്ചുതന്ന സാമ്പിൾ അരിയേക്കാൾ മോശമായ അരിയല്ലെ ഇടങ്ങഴിക്ക രണ്ടണയായി വിൽക്കുന്നത്.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: We have not got a large quantity of it. We have sent a sample to the Food Department, Delhi and we are doing all that is possible to avoid such quality being sent to the State.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether the sample sent along with the resolution has been examined by the authorities?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: It was looked into thank God!

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഈ മോശമായ അരികൂടി വാങ്ങിയാലെ നല്ല അരി കൊടുക്കുകയുള്ളുവെന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ട് നിർബ്ബന്ധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ആ അരി തിന്നാലുണ്ടാകുന്ന ദിനം മാറുവാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഡോക്ടർമാരെക്കൊണ്ട് സാദ്ധ്യമാണോ എന്ന് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ട് അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: This is an assumption. That is not correct. Simply because the rice is red it does not mean that the people will get sick if they eat it.

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